

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2003
6 to 9:30 p.m.**

Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgkin

Victor Holm, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Davia, Joe Downey, Jim Fabian, Anne Fenerty, Shirley Garcia, Earl Gunia, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Andrew Ross / Rick DiSalvo, Steve Gunderson, Tim Rehder, Dean Rundle

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Suzanne Allen, Maureen Eldredge, Tom Gallegos, Henri Jonas, Jim Kinsinger, Alliyah Mirza, Nancy Peters

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Benjamin Hersheim (student); Larry Hankins (stakeholder); James Horan (citizen); Ralph Stephens (former RF worker); Bill McNeill (Wildlife Refuge TRG); Rob Henneke (EPA); Patrick Etchart (DOE-RFFO); Bill Ramer (retiree); John Corsi (KH); Alan Trenary (citizen); Rick Warner (citizen); Vanessa Safonovs (student); Deb French (RFCAB staff); Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff); Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff); Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD / NEW BUSINESS:

Comment: Larry Hankins, stakeholder/Rocky Flats worker. Larry said he is an RCT at Rocky Flats with the Steelworkers union. He also clarified that he is not speaking on behalf of the union. In January 2002, Larry filed a safety complaint with DOE-Rocky Flats. He said complaints are supposed to be responded to within 90 days. He finally received a response in September 2002, which he feels did not address his complaint. A portion of his complaint related to problems on the beryllium line. When Larry questioned a safety issue, he was encouraged by the union to shut down the line; his supervisors told him to ignore the problem. He said he felt he was threatened by Kaiser-Hill representatives to not stop work. Larry also expressed his concern about the policy of filing a safety complaint with DOE, then having a response prepared by Kaiser-Hill. He does not feel this process shows respect for the workers.

Response: Board chair Victor Holm thanked Larry for his comments. Victor noted, however, that the Board is not allowed to get directly involved in any personnel action between Rocky Flats workers and their employer.

Comment: Alan Trenary, citizen. Alan said he feels that as long as there is significant radioactive contamination at the Rocky Flats site, there should also be a public body to represent the citizens, to help the public understand Rocky Flats issues and to help educate citizens about what is happening at the site. He supports the Board and the outreach it has made to the public. Alan said he had spoken to staff at Mark Udall's office about funding cuts faced by the Board. Staff from Mark Udall's office said they would get back to him soon.

New Business:

Board member Anne Fenerty said that some time ago, she had asked for additional information about air monitoring at the perimeter and at demolition locations. That information has not yet been received. Jerry Henderson explained that the information Anne requested should be available soon. Site representatives working on fulfilling her request lost their work trailer in the blizzard.

Board member Shirley Garcia said it would be helpful for the Board to have a presentation on air monitoring. She also requested that staff provide to the Board a one-page summary of the air monitoring data when it is received.

ADMIN RECORD

SW-A-005390

Board member Dave Davia requested that the Board schedule a discussion on Board committees and committee membership issues.

BRIEFING ON ROCKY FLATS COLD WAR MUSEUM: Mac West, president of Informal Learning Experiences, talked briefly about work on the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. Informal Learning Experiences is a museum consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., which is doing work on behalf of Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. He is soliciting advice and information from members of the Board and the public. Mac noted the Cold War Museum was created as part of the Allard/Udall Wildlife Refuge Bill. One of the conditions of the bill is that a report be submitted to DOE defining what the museum will be. The museum's Board of Directors commissioned a feasibility study to investigate what the museum should consist of and to help define it physically and economically. Work on this project began at the beginning of the year; a formal report will be submitted by the end of June. The study will look at the content of the museum, the functions of the museum, and a location for the museum.

Mac said there are many stories about Rocky Flats to be told and the challenge is to present the stories in a way that makes sense to the public. The functions of the museum are expected to go beyond exhibits, such as providing a forum where ideas and issues can be explored by the public and for scholarly work. There will also be an archival element to the museum, as it may become the long-term depository for much information about the history of Rocky Flats. Finally, they must also consider the museum's audience, which will be local, regional, national, international, and educational. A business model will be developed to explain the overall cost of the museum, its operating costs, and potential sources of income both earned and contributed. Mac said he is seeking assistance from the Board and the public to help define goals for the museum. He left contact information for anyone interested and stayed through the meeting to have informal discussions with members of the Board.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE BUILDING 776 DEMOLITION: Mark Ferri, Vice President of Kaiser-Hill and Project Manager for the Buildings 707 and 776/777 Closure Projects, gave a presentation on the demolition strategy for Building 776. Mark said the building is a 250,000 square foot, two-story structure constructed in the 1950s to serve as a main facility for producing plutonium pits. The building was the site of a large fire in 1969, which started in a glovebox and spread through other gloveboxes. It took about two years for workers to clean the building to the point where it could be occupied and to allow limited production work to continue.

When decontamination work began, there were more than 25,000 grams of plutonium and approximately 280 gloveboxes in the facility. Mark said all the gloveboxes have been removed and plutonium remaining in the building has been reduced to approximately 1,000 grams. A total of 84 individual work projects have been completed to date, with more than 10,000 cubic meters of waste being shipped offsite. Mark commended the Steelworkers for the quality work they have provided on this project.

Mark said there were 14 areas where equipment was thought to have been buried beneath the building. Ten locations were completely excavated and four locations that consisted of solid concrete up to 25 feet deep were core-bored to see what existed. In one area, which used to be a rolling mill pit, workers discovered a bed plate in the foundation and an angle iron, which is part of the original building construction. Nothing else was found in that area; other equipment had already been removed and shipped to Idaho. In another area, workers found a Marform press 16 to 20 feet below the slab surface. That equipment will be removed during demolition. He believes everything buried beneath the building that could be found has now been located. Mark said he feels the areas were covered up after the fire to prevent anyone from going into the areas beneath the building.

Building 776 is made of structural steel rather than poured concrete. About 40 percent of the building's exterior walls are cinder block while the other 60 percent are transite walls. The transite walls are made from asbestos-bearing material that will have to be removed prior to demolition. Structural steel columns in the building are encased in concrete and some structural steel joints have internal

contamination. The original roof of the building was damaged by the fire. Later, four-foot beams were added to the top of the building support columns and a second roof was created.

Demolition plans have been analyzed by the site. Alternatives include putting a tent over the entire facility during demolition. Such a tent would have to be free-standing with no interior supports. Mark said that type of structure is not feasible because it would be too dangerous, too large, and would have to be designed for wind and snow loads. Decontamination to unrestricted levels is also not feasible, he said, because the contamination is spread so wide that removing all of it all would weaken the building structurally. The site's preferred alternative is decontamination followed by demolition. Mark noted that the existing Decommissioning Operations Plan (DOP) is being modified to include demolition plans. The modification should be available by mid-April. The approach is to demolish and remove all building components at least three feet below final grade for disposal at an approved offsite facility. Objectives for the project are to protect public health, the environment, and worker health and safety, to ship debris to an offsite facility, and perform work in accordance with standards and regulations related to the site's future use. Risk reduction activities will be completed first, and then the site will conduct a pre-demolition characterization. Demolition controls include dust control, limitations on waste piles, work area boundaries, process surveys, and air sampling.

Board members then asked questions about the demolition plan, discussing issues such as the length of time this process will take, airborne contamination in the building, the levels of contamination that will remain in the structure prior to demolition, protecting workers from beryllium exposure, removal of process waste lines and pipes in the building, precautions that will be taken when removing duct work, and control of the waste piles outside the building. The Board's Closure Projects Committee will meet after the draft DOP is released to review and discuss the plan and begin drafting a recommendation. The public comment period on the plan will close in June, so the Board will have two more meetings to prepare, discuss, and finalize recommendations on the DOP.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE ROCKY FLATS LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP

STRATEGY: John Rampe, DOE-Rocky Flats, gave a presentation on the site's Long-Term Stewardship Strategy. John said that stewardship generally is considered to be the activities that must be in place after Rocky Flats is cleaned and closed. Some of the activities include monitoring, records management, and other issues that are important to maintaining the site after closure. DOE-Headquarters asked the closure sites to submit a stewardship plan by January 31, 2003. The Rocky Flats Long-Term Stewardship Strategy has not yet been submitted to Headquarters.

The strategy has two parts. Part One is a general overview and discusses goals, stewardship definitions, site conditions at end state, the history of the site, and overall stewardship policies. Those policies include conducting a thorough, risk-based cleanup and factoring stewardship concerns into remedy decisions. Institutional and engineered controls, as well as monitoring plans, will be maintained post-closure. John said it is also important to maintain a record-keeping system to allow future users to make informed decisions, and also to perform regular reviews of the remedies to ensure their effectiveness. Part Two of the strategy contains more specific plans and includes sections on enforceability, institutional and physical controls, engineered controls, environmental monitoring and review, records and information management, contingency planning and emergency response, funding and human resource requirements, public participation, and cultural/national/historic preservation.

Issues for discussion include:

- **Enforceability.** Stakeholders and regulators want to know specifically what will be enforced and how, including what binding commitments can be made.
- **Institutional controls.** Some stakeholders want the state's environmental covenants law to be applied to Rocky Flats; other stakeholders want a blanket prohibition on development at Rocky Flats.

- Remedy selection. Stakeholders want stronger stewardship considerations in decision documents and closeout reports.
- Funding. Stakeholders would like to have a trust fund in place to ensure that long-term stewardship activities are funded indefinitely; however, the strategy is based on an anticipation that funding will be requested annually

The strategy is currently in draft form and stakeholder comments have been addressed. The final draft will be released in tandem with the release of final Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement modifications to ensure consistency between the documents. Rocky Flats site officials will then solicit comments from DOE-Headquarters.

Board members asked questions about stewardship plans for the site, including consideration of the wildlife refuge as a primary institutional control, how to ensure funding for the refuge in the future, where the funds for stewardship will come from, and how much consideration was given to the cost of stewardship over the long-term versus spending more money on cleanup in the short-term. The Board's work plan has outlined a major focus on stewardship for this year. Suggestions for review of stewardship issues include putting together an ad-hoc committee or group to draft recommendations on behalf of the Board, holding discussions through the Board as a whole, having the Wildlife Refuge Technical Review Group review some stewardship issues, and working through the Stewardship Working Group. The Board did not agree on a process for addressing stewardship issues. They did agree to schedule time on next month's agenda to discuss the draft Long-Term Stewardship Strategy, and to receive a briefing from the co-chair of the Stewardship Working Group. The Board will then decide on how to draft its own stewardship recommendations.

DISCUSSION ON DEER ORGAN TESTING: Board member Anne Fenerty requested the Board consider asking DOE to provide funding to test deer for actinide uptake. She noted that 26 deer were killed at Rocky Flats in December and examined for Chronic Wasting Disease. Organ and tissue samples from those deer have been frozen and are available for testing. She feels the deer should be tested for actinide uptake before the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge is opened to the public. There are currently no funds available for testing, which would cost more than \$100,000. Anne suggested the Board recommend DOE fund limited testing of the deer. Dean Rundle, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), said he believes there should at least be an analysis of the muscle and liver tissue of the deer. He said FWS is currently negotiating with DOE. FWS is asking for approximately \$60,000 for testing. Dean said he believes the testing should be done as soon as possible. The Board did not have a formal letter of recommendation for review and approval. However, the Board approved a resolution stating that it supports the analysis suggested by the Fish and Wildlife Service and suggesting that DOE provide funding. Anne will provide a draft formal letter of recommendation at next month's meeting. However, Dean said the issue may be resolved before that time.

DISCUSSION OF WILDLIFE REFUGE TECHNICAL REVIEW GROUP

RECOMMENDATION ON MINERAL RIGHTS PURCHASE AT ROCKY FLATS: Last month, the Board reviewed a letter presented by its Wildlife Refuge Technical Review Group (TRG) regarding the purchase of mineral rights at Rocky Flats. After discussion, the Board decided to send the letter back to the group to make some minor changes to the letter. Those changes were incorporated and the letter was again brought to the Board for review and approval. The letter states the TRG's support of the purchase of mineral rights at Rocky Flats with federal funds; it will be sent to DOE with copies to the FWS and Colorado's congressional delegation. The Board endorsed the letter by consensus, with two abstentions. Staff will draft a cover letter for the Board's review and approval.

DISCUSSION ABOUT FUTURE OF THE WILDLIFE REFUGE TECHNICAL REVIEW

GROUP: Recently, a few Board members raised some questions and concerns about whether the work of the Wildlife Refuge Technical Review Group (TRG) fits within the scope of work for the Board. Bill Kossack, who serves as co-chair of the TRG, said he feels the work being performed by that group is appropriate and is within the Board's work scope. Bill said the future wildlife refuge at Rocky Flats will be an integral part of the institutional controls at the site, which makes the refuge another element of stewardship. Thus, he said, the Board does have a reason for being involved in the process of establishing the refuge. Bill said the TRG is well represented by the public and everyone who serves on the TRG is involved in its process. Other Board members expressed concern that the TRG's scope of work is not valid because the group does not address cleanup or contamination issues. Also, recent cuts to the Board's budget made by DOE make it necessary to prioritize work addressed by the Board. Bill distributed a copy of the work scope prepared by the TRG. The Board agreed to continue discussion about the future of the TRG at its next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: May 1, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

Agenda: Presentation and update on draft Long-Term Stewardship Strategy; follow-up discussion on Building 776 Demolition Strategy; follow-up with draft letter regarding animal testing; future of the Board and the Wildlife Refuge Technical Review Group

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10 p.m. *

(* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in the RFCAB office.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joe Downey, Secretary
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

[Home](#) | [About RFCAB](#) | [Board Members](#) | [About Rocky Flats](#) | [RFCAB Documents](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Public Involvement](#) | [Board Vacancies](#) | [Special Projects](#) | [Contact](#)